

line of the upper and left-hand column through line 2 of the upper and right-hand column, and Fig. 1. Note that although the cited text is in Japanese, the disclosure can be understood from Fig. 1 and the English language abstract.

Applicants' package, on the other hand, calls for the second tearable zone to be provided on the longitudinal sealed portion itself. Thus Okada does not disclose the following feature defined in the improvement part of amended Claim 1:

(1) the longitudinal sealed portion has the second tearable zone (hereinafter referred to as "Feature 1" of the present invention).

Also, the following features defined in the improvement part of Claim 1 are not disclosed in Okada:

(2) the second tearable zone has a length in the longitudinal direction of the packaging bag, which is identical to or longer than that of the first tearable zone (hereinafter referred to as "Feature 2" of the present invention); and

(3) the upper edge of the second tearable zone is located in the same level as or above the upper edge of the first tearable zone and the lower edge of the second tearable zone

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is located in the same level as or below the lower edge of the first tearable zone (hereinafter referred to as "Feature 3" of the present invention).

By combining Features 1 to 3 of the present invention, it is possible to achieve the smooth tearing action that is described in the specification on page 7, lines 5-18.

Bunch appears to be cited merely as a reference showing the combination of a non-oriented film with an oriented film having perforations. Bunch does not show the structural features set forth in the three Features listed above.

Because neither Okada nor Bunch disclose any of the Features 1 to 3 of the present invention as listed above and set forth in Claim 1, the references fail to teach or suggest the packaging bag of the present invention and its ability to achieve a smooth tearing action. Even if Okada and Bunch are combined in any manner, it is also not possible to embrace the subject matter of the present invention as called for in amended Claim 1. Remaining Claims 2 to 8, which directly or indirectly depend from amended Claim 1, also are patentable over these references for the same reason as Claim 1.

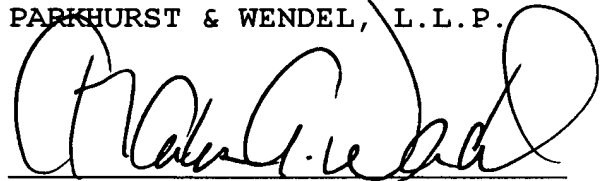
The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging receipt of the certified copy of applicants' priority application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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